Reeves Funeral Homes, Ltd. has established a relationship with a local retired florist (Nancy Smith) and Nutri System of Grundy County, which is a program that provides hot meals to families throughout the County for a nominal \$3.00 fee – three times a week.

Our involvement includes working directly with Nancy Smith, who utilizes funeral floral arrangements from funeral services to raffle off and cheer up the elderly whom attend the meals as well as take arrangements to those whom regularly participate, but may be shut in due to weather or illness.

What our firm does - is give the families in which we are serving the option to donate any floral pieces that traditionally would have gone to the cemetery – for the use of re-purposing. Any arrangements that the family wishes to donate are then taken to Nancy Smith, whom takes the arrangements apart, recycles all the materials, and makes arrangements from sizes fitting in 1 ounce shot glasses to 8 ounce plastic cups. They are then transported to the location of the meal, where each one of the attendee's receives an arrangement to take home or they draw numbers to raffle them off following the meal – depending on how many flowers are available.

In times where there is an over abundance of flowers and there is more than enough to provide for all of the individuals attending the meals – we have then set Nancy up with the transportation equipment to take the flowers to local nursing homes and skilled care facilities. Pending on the facility, Nancy then will give flowering arranging classes to the residents or put the loose flowers in bucks on a cart and go room to room – allowing the residents to pick their own flowers to have in their room.

With the cut backs in skilled care facility staffing, many of the past "in-house" hospitality programs, which did much of the same has disappeared throughout our area. This is our way of making people feel special and provide joy in flowers.

I also may add that in times, where we do not have flowers for donation and a period passes, we do financially support Nancy to purchase flowers from local florists. Usually the florists are happy to discount the aging flowers in their coolers, and the individuals whom receive these small tokens are not hard to please.

We have had an overwhelming response from this program, and aside from making smiles on individuals faces, I do feel that it is small useful way of recycling and being *green*.